Drinking water programmes in villages

32. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHUGY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is an acute shortage of drinking water in drought affected areas particularly in the 2.35 lakh problem villages of the country which continue to be neglected;

(b) whether it is also a fact that assistance provided by the Central Government to the State Governments for drinking water programmes are not being utilised properly by the respective State Governments; and

(c) if so, the action taken to solve this problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI RAMANAND YADAV): (a) to (c) Drinking Water scarcity conditions have developed in some parts of the fifteen drought affected States due to failure of the Monsoon. To combat the situation, Government of India has released Rs. 51.40 crores as ad hoc ways and means advance to 15 States. In addition, Rs. 14.58 crores has been released to 13 of these States for purchase of drilling rigs and other accessories. Physical and financial progress of the programme for supply of drinking water in rural areas being implemented by the States is being monitored at the Central Government level. The progress is adequate and funds are being utilised by the States in accordance with the approved programmes|Schemes.

Impact of Doordarshan programmes on society

33. SHRI NAGEN SAIKIA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Doordarshan studies and assesses the impact of its programme on society;

(b) if so, at what interval it is done and how it is done; and

(c) if there is no such provisions whether this point will be considered?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Problem-oriented studies are undertaken by Doordarshan from time to time, besides periodic assessments, keeping in view the requirements of the organisation. These studies are based on scientific research techniques and methodology.

(c) Does not arise

Adverse effect of serials on youth

34. SHRI NAGEN SAIKIA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any complaints as such that the T.V. series on drugs have been affecting the youth adversely; and

(b) if not, whether there is any proposal to conduct a study on it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) Barring a few complaints the serials on drugs have generally been appreciated by the viewers.

(b) No, Sir.

Selection of serial 'Manoranjan'

35. SHRI NAGEN SAIKIA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Doordarshan patronises low and vulgar humour,

(b) the reasons for selecting the serial 'Manoranjan' for telecasting; and

(c) what are the criteria for selection of a serial for telecasting?